

10.30am - Wednesday 26th June 2024

Church Lane Community Centre, Bedford

Present:

Francesca Marritt	Citizens Advice Bedford (chair)
Martin Trinder	CVS Beds (minutes)
Jo Rogers	FACES
Caroline Cook	Mind BLMK
Liz Barker	Housing Team - Central Bedfordshire Council
Sam Conder	Macmillan Welfare Rights Service – Central Bedfordshire Council
Karen Sharp	Beds RCC
Steven Kunes	Hightown Housing Association
Wendy Jephcote	Autism Bedfordshire
Taiwo Adaba	Autism Bedfordshire
Nathan Kirkwood	Citizens Advice Bedford
Clare Anderson	Sight Concern Bedfordshire
Sarah Broughton	Bedford Foodbank
Len Simkins	Advice Bedfordshire
Paulette Rennie	Bedford Community Support Group/MENTER
Kuldip Rupra	MENTER

Apologies:

Elliott Stephenson	Grand Union Housing Group
Julie Balaam	Beds RCC
Georgia Bowers	Bedford Libraries - Bedford Borough Council
Nichola Thompson	Hightown Housing Association
Melanie Gomez	Hightown Housing Association
Pat Bonnett	Central Bedfordshire Council
Sarah Hughes	Central Bedfordshire Council
Amanda Higham	Beds RCC
Brian Cunningham	BRASS

Fran welcomed everybody to the meeting.

3. Minutes of last AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM (29th June 2023) were accepted.

Item 4 - Anti-poverty network - A presentation on anti-poverty work in Bedfordshire was given, and the need for an anti-poverty network was discussed, at the last Forum meeting. An informal meeting is being organised to discuss further, involving Len, Sarah, Martin, Nathan and Fran.

There were no further matters arising.

4. Presentation from FACES

Jo from FACES provided an overview of the service (please see slides attached).

It was noted that organisations can make referrals, however most services are full.

The members also discussed which organisations might be offering similar services in Central Bedfordshire.

5. BAF Annual Report and Finance Report for 2023/24

The annual report (including a finance report) was circulated to those attending the meeting.

It was noted that the last AGM was at Project 229, not 299.

The Financial Statement to 31 March 2024 showed that the finances have stabilised following the increases in membership fees.

The annual report and finance report were agreed.

6. BAF membership fees for 2024/25

The Steering Group recommended that membership fees should remain the same for 2024/25. This was agreed:

- £11 - lower rate for organisations with 0-2 employees
- £55 - standard rate
- £110 - higher rate for organisations with over 100 staff

7. BAF elections - BAF Officers (Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer) and Steering Group members for 2024/25.

At this point of the meeting, all members wished to put their thanks on record to Amanda Ryan, who stepped down as chair during the year.

Following discussions, the following were elected unanimously:

- Chair - Francesca Marriott
- Deputy Chair - Elliott Stephenson
- Steering Group Member - Brian Cunningham
- Steering Group Member - Sarah Broughton
- Steering Group Member - Paulette Rennie

Martin Trinder will continue to undertake the functions of the Treasurer.

It was also noted that Len Simkins attends the Steering Group meetings on behalf of BAF's company, Advice Bedfordshire.

8. Any other business

Fran thanked Jo for the use of the Community Centre.



FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S EARLY-HELP SERVICES

**Working with families to
build a better future**



- Established 1987
- Previously known as Home Start Bedford
- Became FACES April 2013





- 7 trustees
- 12 staff
- 46 volunteers
- Over 1500 direct beneficiaries a year

Our Volunteers

- Intensive training course 6 weeks
- DBS checked
- Diverse backgrounds
- Ongoing training offered
- Regular supervisions
- Choice of volunteering



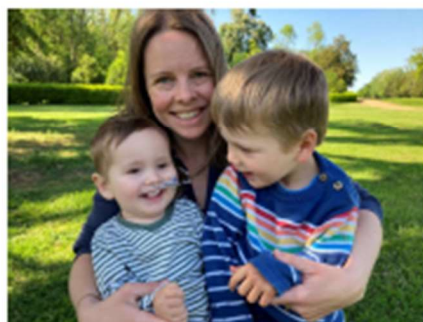
The QAVS for volunteer groups



Our Projects



- Together@FACES
- Early Help Service funded by Henry Smith Charitable Trust
- For families with children aged 0-11
- 1-1 home visiting
- Practitioner and/or volunteer led



Our Projects



- BDASS – Bedford Domestic Abuse Support Service
- Families and children at risk of or experiencing low to medium abuse
- 1-1 support within the home and community
- Volunteer and/or practitioner led
- Friendly FACES monthly group



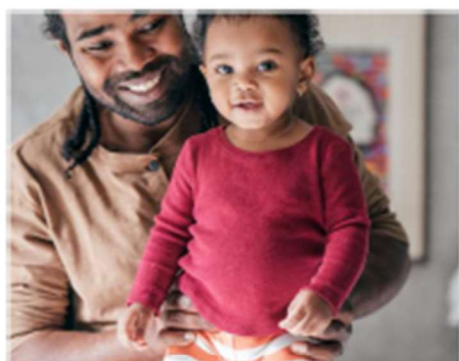
Our Projects

- #SEEN – In conjunction with Link To Change Charity
- Funded by Harpur Trust
- Support for young people and their parents at risk of or experiencing exploitation
- Support in school or in the home
- Practitioner and/or volunteer led



Our Projects

- Dads@FACES
- Funded by Family Hubs
- Support for fathers and their children
- Workshops and 1-1 intervention



Our Projects

- Caring Dads
- Funded by Family Hubs
- 17 week programme
- Support for fathers showing neglectful behaviours towards their children
- Eligibility criteria applies



FACES
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S EARLY-HELP SERVICES



Our Projects

- BabyFACES
- Funded by Harpur Trust
- Support during pregnancy and for 12 weeks after birth
- Baby massage/yoga



FACES
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S EARLY-HELP SERVICES



Our Projects

- Spectrum Support
- Funded by donations from the Bedford Doctor Who Convention
- Support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND)
- 1-1 home visiting
- Parent forum fortnightly



Our Projects

- Emotion Detectives
- Funded by Bedfordshire Educational Association
- Workshops within schools
- Children aged 7-11 years



Our Projects

- Family groups
- Funded by Early Childhood Partnership
- 3 targeted groups
- Multiples group
- Monthly Dad & Me group



Our Projects

- Senditots
- Play group for children with SEND
- Funded by The Bedfordshire Charitable Trust
- Once a month



Our Projects



- Clay Therapy for adults
- 6 sessions
- Funded by Masonic Charitable Foundation
- 3 year funding



Our Projects



- Baby Bank
- Members of Baby Bank Alliance affiliated by Princess of Wales
- Working in collaboration with Bedford Foodbank
- On average 20-30 referrals a week



Other Projects

- Crisis funding
- Holiday, Activities and Food
- FACES Holiday Fresh Food



How to get involved

- Volunteer with us
- Fundraise for us
- Follow us on social media
Facebook – FACESBedford
Instagram - faces_bedford



www.facesbedford.org

01234 270601

office@facesbedford.org



Thank you for listening

www.facesbedford.org